

Hunger and Homelessness Week creates “community connections through service”

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

Service projects help students achieve a more varied college experience. “Students have numerous and diverse options for creating community connections through service,” said Service Learning Coordinator, Anne Ritz.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week was Monday, Nov. 16 through Sunday, Nov. 22.

Alma College students rose to the challenge and helped increase awareness about hunger and homelessness through several events that took place during the week.

Bowl for Kid’s Sake, put on by Big Brother Big Sisters of Gratiot and Montcalm counties, took place on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

The event is an annual fundraiser put on by Big Brothers Big Sisters to help raise money for children in need. Students raise \$25 for the event and then spend the evening bowling and having fun, said **Brandt Ayoub (’11)**, event coordinator.

“It went really well. We had just over 40 participants and raised exactly \$1,600—an improvement from last year. Everyone appeared to be having a great time, and we were pleased with the turnout,” Ayoub added.

“Alma students are generous with their time, talents and treasures,” added Ritz. “During these challenging economic times, basic needs are often unmet. Students have rallied behind the causes of hunger and homelessness to generously support local organizations.”

“Students have participated in Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week for at least the past 14 years with various awareness and service initiatives

from sleeping out in McIntyre Mall in cardboard boxes to creating ‘The Invisible Ache: Fighting Hunger in Gratiot County.’”

“The Invisible Ache” is an advocacy production created by a service learning course taught by Joanne Gilbert, Professor of Communication.

Its performance in Jones Auditorium on Tuesday, Nov. 17 helped kick off the awareness week at Alma College.

“The performance is based on a script my students and I compiled of narratives from interviews they conducted with folks who attend Community Café, statistical data, scholarly critique, and literature all focusing on hunger—though the main focus is hunger in Gratiot County,” said Gilbert.

The performance ran for approximately 30 minutes and was followed by a question and answer session and refreshments.

Ritz added that the production was also performed after dinner at Community Café on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Community Café takes place at First Presbyterian Church in Alma every Thursday night, and this event was no different.

“Community Café has a partnership with Sodexo. One Thursday each month students, faculty and staff donate munch money to cover the cost of food that Sodexo prepares for the Community Café with different campus organizations serving and cleaning up on the partnership date,” said Ritz.

Gamma Phi Beta was the organization that helped during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Ritz added, “The next Community Café partnership dates are: Thursday December 3 with Kappa Iota, PRIDE, and the MacCurdy House serving.”

30 Hour Famine, which took place on Friday, Nov. 20 to Saturday, Nov.

21, is another important event during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, said **Noelle Evans (’11)**, event coordinator.

“30 Hour Famine is an international youth movement sponsored by the humanitarian organization World Vision International. The money raised through 30 Hour Famine provides food, clean water, and other resources for impoverished people in developing countries,” said Evans.

She added that 15 percent of the funds support impoverished people in the United States.

If involved in the event, students fundraise between now until after the Thanksgiving break.

“\$1 will feed a child for a day and we’re asking each student to raise about \$60, which will feed a child for two months,” said Evans.

Evans hopes to raise a total of \$4,000.

Last year the event raised about \$3,300.

“Students also [had] the chance to fast for 30 hours to experience the hunger that one billion people in the world experience daily,” said Evans.

Fasting started at 11 a.m. on Friday and ended at 5 p.m. on Saturday with a celebratory feast in Jones Auditorium, she added.

Finally, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week concludes with Issue Day at Central Michigan University.

“Issue Day is hosted by the Central Michigan University Volunteer Center. Issue Day serves as an interactive, educational opportunity for students, staff, and faculty across the state of Michigan who advocate for social justice issues,” said Ritz.

She added that it consists of a one-day conference where participants are provided with education, information, and orientation on challenging issues of society today.

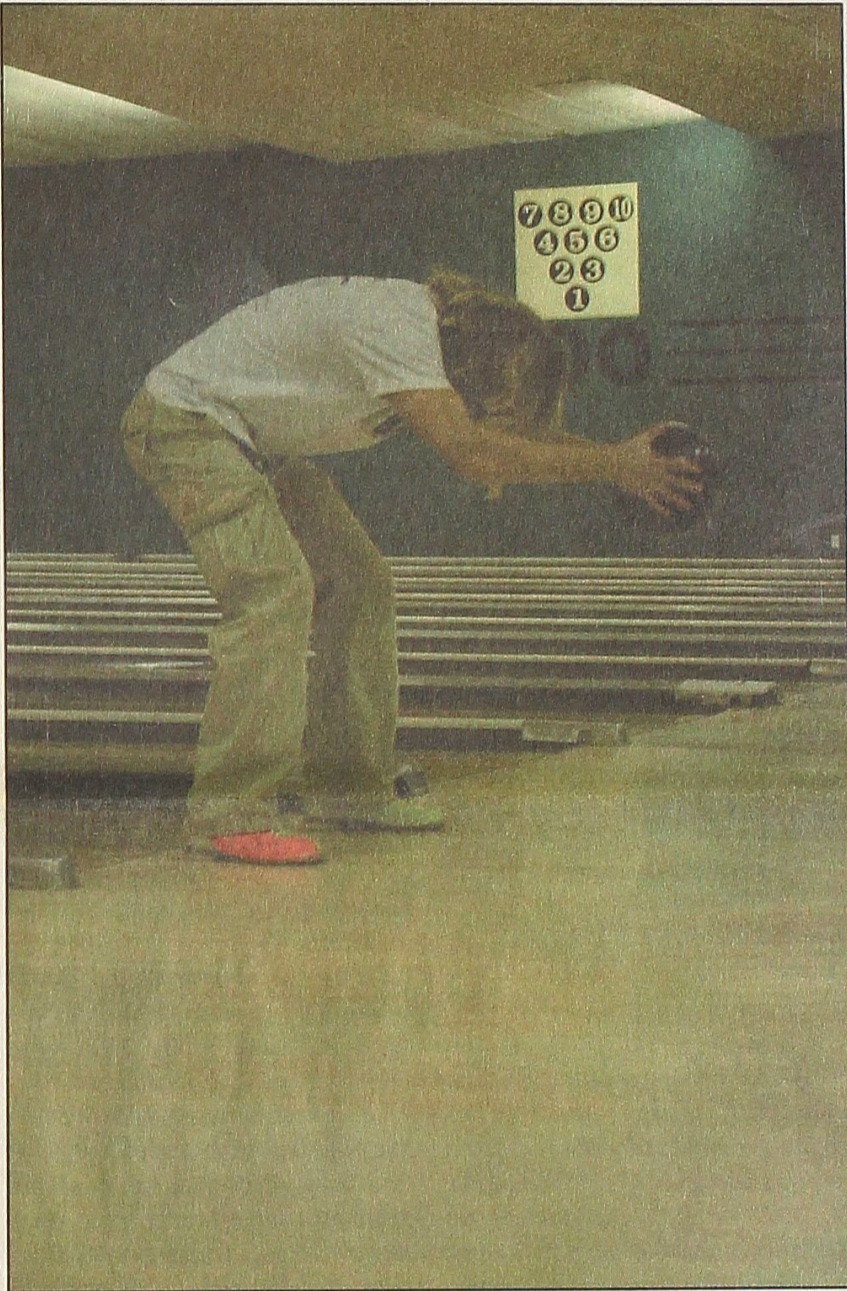


Photo by Catherine Finley

A student who attended Bowl for Kid’s Sake, an activity to raise money for Hunger and Homelessness Week, practices some interesting bowling skills.

Alma students travel to global climate conference

By KATIE GORDON
STAFF WRITER

Four Alma College students will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December. **Adam Ellsworth (’11)**, **Renee Willoughby (’11)**, **Ben Roberts (’12)**, and **Samantha LaChance (’12)** will travel to Copenhagen, Sweden along with Murray Borrello, instructor of geology and director of the environmental studies Program, and Michael Vickery, professor of communication.

The Copenhagen Conference will have all countries represented, working toward negotiations concerning emission reductions, alternative energies, and more, for a better environmental future.

As Ellsworth says, “I am most excited to meet people from around the world who are all of the mindset that we have to do this.”

“I also look forward to seeing a lot of figure heads of companies and organizations who are working toward making the world better.”

LaChance adds, “I am hoping to learn about other nation’s movement toward environmental

sustainability in the business sector. I am excited to hear about new, promising ideas.”

When Ed Lorenz, professor of history and political science, approached Roberts and said there was a possibility Alma students could attend the conference, he immediately wanted to go.

Roberts says, “As soon as I got back to my room I looked up the COP15 conference and got really excited because I knew this was going to be a great experience.”

Since the conference was only months away at that point, the students needed to go with a delegation already signed up. They emailed Richard Rood, a NASA sponsored Climatologist and a professor from the University of Michigan, and he responded within a day. It became official they would attend the conference with the U of M delegation of 40 people.

The delegation includes various environmental leaders in climate change from across the state, along with U of M students. As Ellsworth said, the majority are grad or doctorate students; the four Alma

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Photo by Catherine Finley

Alma students attended Bowl for Kid’s Sake, an event sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gratiot and Montcalm counties. The event raised \$1,600. Other activities that took place during Hunger and Homelessness Week were Community Cafe, 30 Hour Famine and Issues Day.

Healthcare forum educates campus

By KATIE GORDON
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday, the Political Science Club hosted a health care forum along with Alma College Democrats and Alma College Republicans to inform the student body about the current healthcare debate.

The expert panel included Tom Ealey, associate professor of business administration; Feler Bose, assistant professor of economics; Nicholas Dixon, professor of philosophy, Britt Cartrite; assistant professor of political science, and Bill Gorton, assistant professor of political science.

Each professor gave his own insight into the topic.

Gorton said that Barack Obama's plan is a Healthcare Exchange System with two main ground rules: insurance companies cannot deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions and there will be an individual mandate to buy health insurance.

Ealey started off the discussion

with what is happening in Washington, D.C. and how we got to that point. As of now, the House of Representatives have passed the bill and the Senate is now going ahead with it.

Ealey said that no one person or organization planned the bill, it just "evolved" into what it is now.

"Democratic and economic changes have made it so the system is always being tweaked," he added.

Bose then went into discussing reform. Being a strong believer in "real reform," he said there are several main areas to focus on improving the quality of care and to lower costs, including eliminating licensing requirements for doctors and deregulating the healthcare industry.

Cartrite then switched the discussion of healthcare to comparing other ways of doing it. He said there are four main approaches for single-system healthcare that other countries have taken: Socialized medicine, social insurance model, national health insurance model, and out-of-pocket model.

Cartrite said the U.S. contains

all of these models, depending on the individual; veterans receive socialized medicine, people who are employed with coverage provided receive social insurance, senior citizens on Medicare receive national health insurance, and everyone else's routine care is out-of-pocket, while emergency care is socialized medicine.

Gorton discussed why our current system needs to be fixed. He said that the U.S. spends more than any other country in the world on healthcare, yet receive "about average" healthcare.

It isn't because we are unhealthy, Gorton said. Other countries are just as unhealthy, but it's because we have more poverty and a lot of uninsured people.

Those living in the U.S. without health insurance is now roughly 45 million.

Gorton also argued that at the core of this debate is a moral issue, "a matter of right."

He went on to say that healthcare will help toward equal opportunity.

"You can't flourish as a human being if you're not healthy," Gorton said.

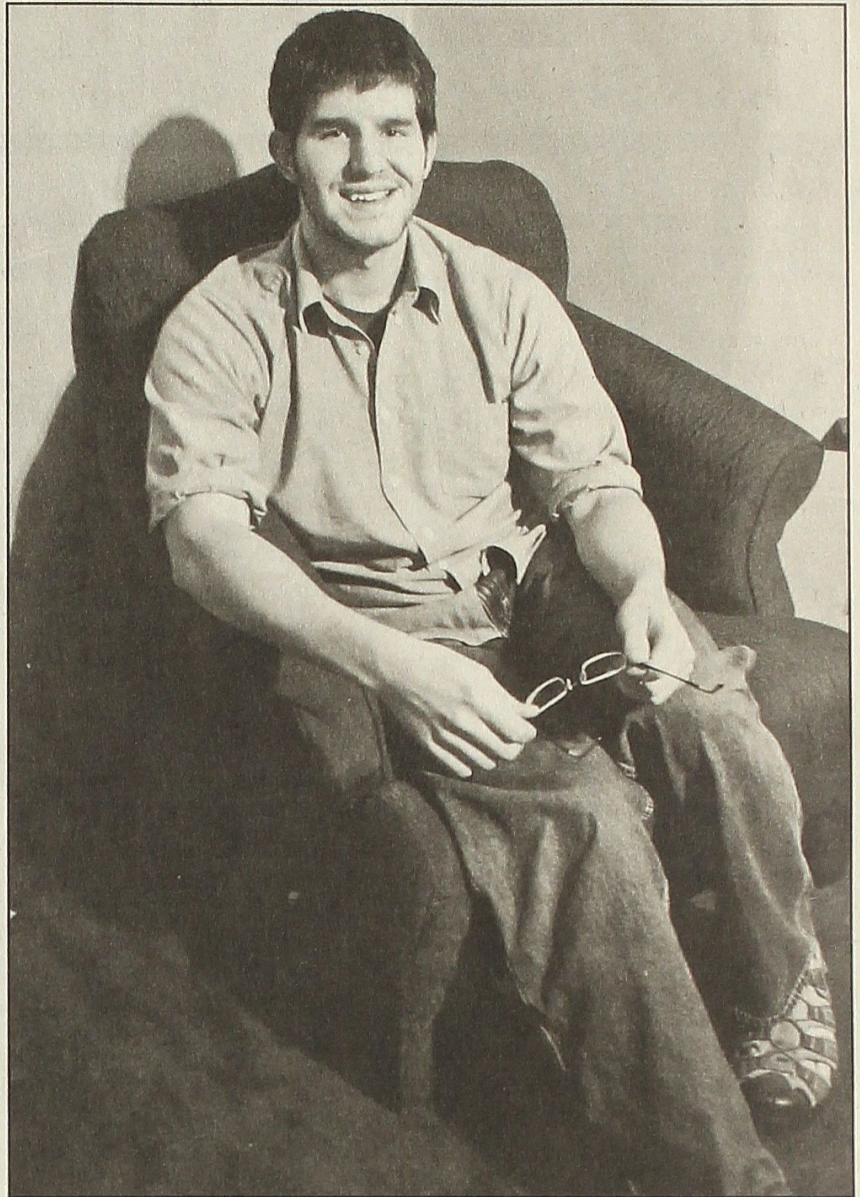


Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Adam Ellsworth ('11) is one of the students who will travel to Sweden for the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

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College students will probably be the four youngest on the trip.

At the conference, the students will basically be doing "24/7, non-stop environmental stuff," Ellsworth says, from policy aspects of environmental law to the art that expresses that.

They will be sitting in on proceedings of the United Nations, attend the People's Climate Forum, the Bright Green Business Expo, the Art Expo, Al Gore's keynote speech, and more.

The students have Observer status, and will not be able to speak at the United Nation proceedings, but will be able to speak in the other sessions, along side journalists, protestors, and the thousands more who are going to Copenhagen but cannot sit in on the litigation.

"I'm going to try my hardest to get granted permission to speak. I have a lot to say about [the environment], being from Michigan," Ellsworth says.

While there, the students will be keeping a blog updated on U of M's Website, as well as Alma's.

"We'll have such a wide variety of opinions for people to see. Four students and two professors will cover a lot of ground," Ellsworth says. "Everyone going has a different specific interest with the environment.

Through this blog, Ellsworth also hopes to achieve a perspective from the inside of the conference that Alma would not otherwise get to hear about.

"I expect that the media will continue to focus on the conflict and protestors and visually exciting things going on outside, and not the calm peaceful people sitting at a table talking about reducing emissions at such-and-such percent."

Before they leave for the conference, they will hold a forum for the Alma community in the week after Thanksgiving break. At the forum, the students will tell the campus what they are going to do in Copenhagen, as well as take questions about what the community wants

to know and figure it out for them at the conference.

Attending this event is not only a chance to represent Alma College or Michigan, says Ellsworth, but also an opportunity to display how the United States is fighting for environmental progress.

"I want them to see there are people in the U.S. who want to take action. We have a lot of students who are really concerned about the environment and the future."

From attending this conference, Alma College will be gaining students with environmental leadership for campus in the years to come.

Coming back from Copenhagen, Ellsworth hopes to be able to create a dialogue in which people with vastly different opinions come to a consensus on actions that need to be taken. He says, "Seeing it on a global level will help me be able to achieve it on a local level."

Roberts adds, "I feel that learning how to negotiate and communicate ideas effectively will make me an overall better leader on campus. I plan to keep up my involvement in CRL and help inspire new CRL members to take a leading role on campus to help promote positive change."

LaChance is also planning to incorporate what she learns into her CRL Leadership Plan. Additionally, as a part of SUN, she says, "I hope to bring back what I have learned about sustainability and put the applicable aspects to practice on campus."

Coming back from the conference, Alma hopes to make this a long-term partnership with U of M concerning Environmental Studies. The students will also hold a presentation with pictures and information about the event.

Attending the United Nations Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, from Dec. 7-18, is opportunity for these students to see "all the ways that science is being utilized in the real world to solve the problem of climate change," as Roberts says, and convey it to Alma's campus from a first-person perspective.

Kennedy advocates green practices

By SIMONE MISHLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The infrastructure of the American energy industry is stealing our natural resources from us, according to Robert Kennedy Jr., an attorney specialized in environmental law, who spoke last Thursday at Central Michigan University about getting the U.S. to embrace green practices.

"We are living in a science fiction nightmare," said Kennedy. "The coal industry has privatized our lakes and forests by sterilizing them."

Kennedy was highly critical of the coal industry in his speech pointing to how the burning of coal has polluted the air, which, in turn, leads to acid rain. This chain reaction is how the coal industry is stealing natural resources from Americans.

"Every fish in the U.S. is poisoned with mercury," said Kennedy. "You can't eat them. The

coal industry has stolen them."

There is science behind the points that Kennedy made in reference to eating fish, even in our state. The Michigan Department of Community Health recommends that women and children under the age of 15 do not eat more than one meal per month of largemouth bass, small mouth bass, walleye, northern pike or muskellunge of any size from the inland lakes, reservoirs or impoundments in Michigan.

Kennedy called out Michiganders who think building a clean-coal facility in the state would be a good idea.

"You are thinking insanely to build one of the last coal plants in Michigan," said Kennedy. "The economics won't work!"

Alternative energy is where the nation needs to be headed, according to Kennedy. Wind and solar energy were of particularly great appeal.

"The Great Plains are the Saudi Arabia of wind," said Kennedy. "We need a national grid that

connects every American home so that they can participate and generate energy in a new system."

According to a report by the World Wind Energy Institute, the U.S. is leading the world in wind turbines installed. The new energy market is also seen as a growth market for jobs since the U.S. doubled its wind power capacity from 2006 to 2008.

"Free market capitalism is the best way to save the environment," said Kennedy. He criticized the ways that American utility systems currently operate. "Utilities should make money by getting people to conserve energy rather than using it. This would be more efficient and more competitive."

Kennedy urged those who attended his speech to think critically about how our nation views environmental policy as it goes forward with becoming energy independent. And from Kennedy's viewpoint, "Good environmental policy 100 percent of the time equals good economic policy."

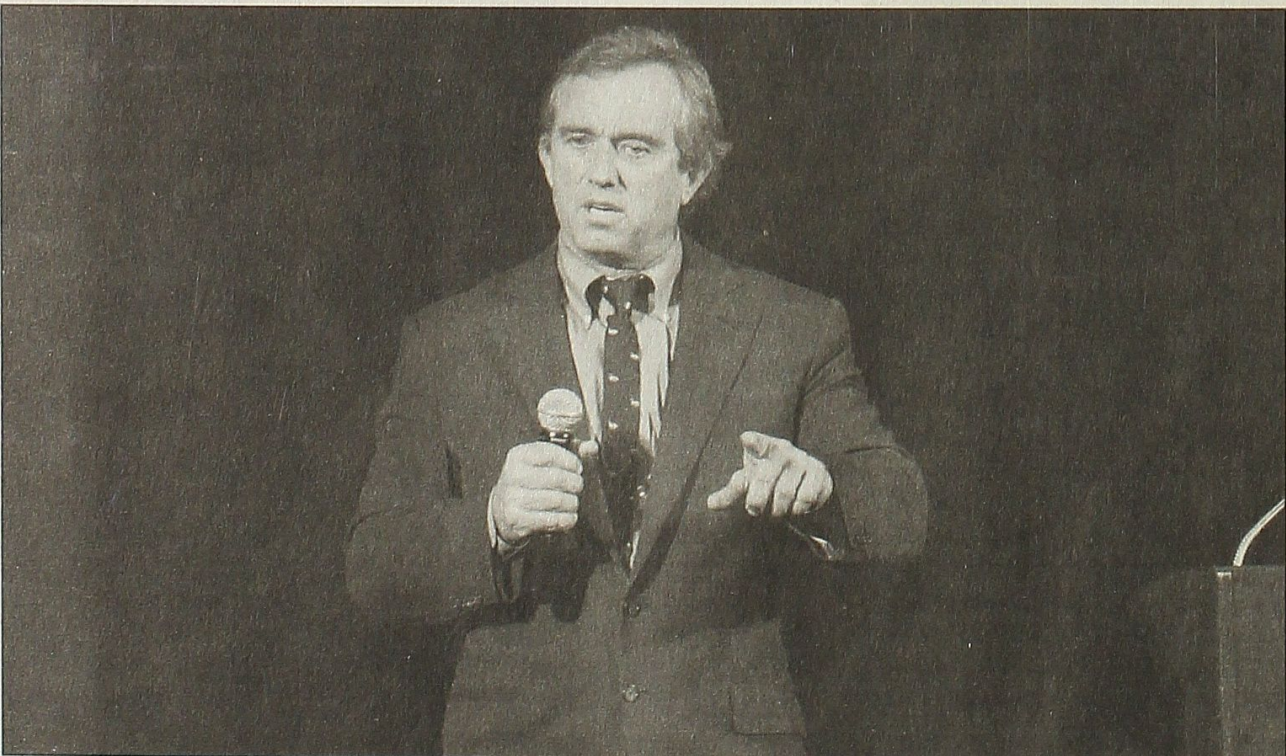


Photo by Catherine Finley

Robert Kennedy Jr. spoke at Central Michigan University on how the American energy industry is stealing our natural resources. He urged Americans to begin embracing green projects.

‘Talented’ students perform ‘a variety of musical styles’ at annual ACUB Songfest

By LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI
FEATURE EDITOR

This year’s Songfest offered students not only quality music, but also fantastic entertainment, according to all those who attended.

“I thought the acts were much better than last year,” said Newberry Hall Director and ACUB advisor Janelle Phillips. “Both the quality and the song variety made it very difficult to judge.”

The event, which took place last Friday night in the Chapel, was judged in five categories: tone, diction, creativity of song, melody/harmony, and rhythm.

“Some of the judging categories were subjective to each judge,” continued Phillips, “but it still seemed fair, since I think each judge kept the same standards for each act.”

Along with Phillips, the three other judges were Lori Hick, student life office associate and housing coordinator; Willard Korson, the Gelston Hall director; and Steuard Jensen, assistant professor of physics.

The event divided the acts into three categories: soloist, small group, and large group.

Both the soloist division and the small group category received cash prizes for first, second, and third place. The large group re-

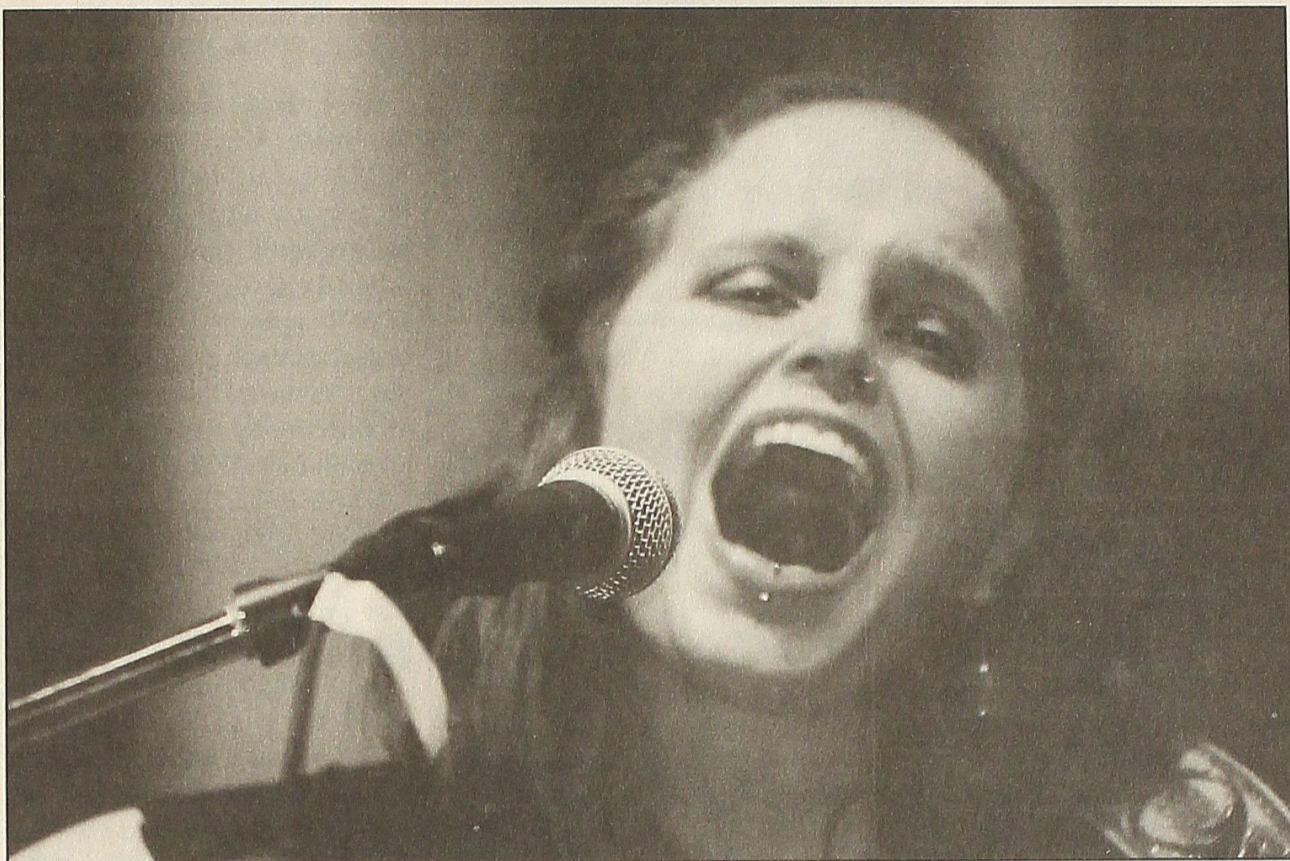


Photo by Devin Brines

Annie Jennings (‘10) performed her original piece “Puddle Jumper” in the soloist division for Songfest. She took third place in that category.

ceived only first and second place prizes.

Songfest featured six soloists, five small groups, and four large groups. First place for the soloist division was **Justin Sluiter (‘11)** singing an original piece “I Wish You Could See.” **Courtney Claffin (‘12)** and **Kelly Hall (‘10)** took first place in the small group section singing “Flight” by Craig

Cornelia. This small group was accompanied by **Richard Armstrong (‘12)** on the piano. The large group division was won by Scots on the Rocks singing “Everyone Pees in the Shower” by Fleet Street.

“I think that we had a good number of performers with a variety of musical styles,” commented **Erika Sherwood (‘10)**, ACUB’s

annual events coordinator. Along with **Matthew Mansell (‘11)**, Sherwood was in charge of collecting applications, organizing rehearsals, contacting judges and arranging sound.

“Despite the other activities on campus, [such as] scheduling it on the same night as the indoor show for band, which takes away from the number of performers, I

was happy with the turnout,” said Sherwood.

Running for many years now, Songfest has always provided an eventful and entertaining night. Seniors have seen it grow for four years, and the development has been rewarding.

“It’s been interesting to see how Songfest has grown over the years,” said **Steven Gerber (‘10)**. “Besides experiencing the new acts, it is also interesting to see the returning acts, and how their style has developed over time.”

Although Gerber has attended the Songfests through the past four years, Friday was his first time performing for the event.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Gerber, who performed with Phi Mu Alpha singing the Pokemon theme song. “I bonded with my brothers over a common goal that we could all accomplish together. To put on a good show for the crowd, as well as ourselves, was definitely a good time.”

Katie Parker (‘13) had the first year perspective on Songfest:

“It was cool to see the different personalities shine through the acts. I felt as if most of the acts were really talented, and kudos to them for going up there on stage. I look forward to next year – it should be fun.”

Kiltie Band’s annual indoor show celebrates 87th season

By ALLISON ZINK
COPY EDITOR

Alma College’s Kiltie Marching Band performed its annual indoor show last Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Remick Heritage Center.

This performance was the grand finale for the marching band season.

“The indoor show always has lots of movement and special visual effects,” said faculty director David Zerbe. “We use platforms, risers and theatrical lighting in utilizing the entire space within Presbyterian Hall.”

The band played music featuring American rock band Toto and all four Indiana Jones movies, as well as selections from its fall outdoor halftime show.

For the Indiana Jones compositions by John Williams, the band members dressed like characters from the movies.

“I love seeing the crowd’s reactions, especially to the Indiana Jones’ costumes,” said flute and piccolo assistant section leader **Audrey Wyers (‘12)**.

Band members said they really enjoyed the musical selections they were able to learn for this show.

“We enjoyed the music because we got it before the end of the marching season and we also enjoyed the Star Wars, E.T., and Superman pieces because they were from the same composer,” said

Wyers.

The sousaphone section was showcased in its own musical feature.

Playing an assortment of selections written by SWAC Hammer

MVSU Tubs, PV Marching Storm 14K, and UGA Sousas, the pieces were artfully arranged by Alma’s own **Ian Church (‘10)**.

The color guard worked extra ‘*Band*’ continues on pg 4



Photo by Catherine Finley

Clarinetist Victoria Kemler (‘11) dresses up for the Kiltie Marching Band’s indoor show. Among other selections, the band played music from “Indiana Jones,” for which they were in costume.

Professional art competition featured Michigan talent

By ELISABETH BLETSCH
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Statewide Print Show is equally important for the college and the artists involved.

“The print show is very important to the artists who participate in it. Many of the artists come to the event and it is a chance for them to meet one another,” said Carrie Parks-Kirby, chair of the art department and professor of art and design.

“I am really excited and grateful for this honor.”

“It is also very important that Alma College does things that are on a professional level and that the students are able to participate in professional level events right on the campus,” she adds.

The Alma College Statewide Print Show is a professional juried competition.

The 29th Annual Alma College Statewide Print Show last Saturday in the Clack Art Center.

There was a reception for the print show in the Clack Art Center that same day from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A new juror is selected each year.

This year’s juror was Nancy Macko, professor of art and director of the digital art program at Scripps College in Claremont,

California.

“The juror is always a nationally known—in some cases internationally known—artist or curator,” said Parks-Kirby.

The juror has to be someone from out of the state and is chosen for the reputation he or she has in the art of printmaking.

Any Michigan resident who is 18 and older can enter work in the show.

Prints are submitted online. The juror then selects the pieces to be in the show from the online submissions.

The winners are chosen when the juror arrives on campus.

Parks-Kirby said that the juror usually has an idea of what works will receive awards before he or she arrives on campus, but sometimes seeing the art in real life changes the juror’s mind.

Four or five purchase awards are given away each year, which means that the college pays the artists’ for their work.

The winning pieces then belong to Alma College and are usually displayed in the gallery at some point.

Because of the purchase awards “little Alma College now has probably the best, most complete collection of Michigan print making for the last 30 years,” said Parks-Kirby.

She added that most years a few Alma College students submit their work in the show.

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Last year **Earl Elowsky ('09)** won an award.

This year Elowsky had another piece in the show.

Another student, **Karen Hopkins ('12)** submitted a piece.

Two faculty members also submitted work: Robert Rozier, associate professor of art and design, and Rosemary Dutka, associate web and database developer.

"My goal was to have just one piece selected for the show. I am really excited and grateful for this honor," said Dutka.

The print show was founded in 1981-1982 by Kent Kirby, chair of the art department at the time, and Carl Olvedt, former professor of art and design.

Since the founding, four other faculty members have served as director of the show.

"It was founded to celebrate and promote the art of printmaking in Michigan. Alma is not in a major art center, so the idea was to make Alma a center for the art of printmaking," said Parks-Kirby.

"It's really a major undertaking. Everyone in the art department works on it. It is a major event for us in the year," said Parks-Kirby.



Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Nancy Macko, professor of art and director of the digital art program at Scripps College was the visiting juror for the print show.

'Band' from pg 3

hard to prepare for this concert.

"Winter color guard is normally about four minutes with four months to work on it. The rain sequence was six minutes in two weeks," said color guard member **Alison Chamberlain ('12)**.

Trish Lopuchi, the color guard instructor, wanted to do something different for this show.

This year, the color guard teamed up with the percussion section for part of its dance sequence.

"Trish thought it would be a good idea to bring the percussion in to add variety to the piece," said color guard member **Kim Barker ('12)**.

The performers were able to get more hands-on with their routine

as well.

"We all went to different high schools and used different techniques. For each little song, a different girl wrote the choreography and it gave them a chance to do what they want and teach it to everyone," said Barker.

The bagpipes also gave a wonderful performance in their feature.

"They [the bagpipes] were great and I love how much they represent our school's heritage. They add a sense of tradition to the band concert," said **Eva Schneider ('12)**.

The concert was very well attended both nights. The audience enjoyed watching the show as much as the band members.

"My favorite part was the Indian

Jones sequence. The music was great and I thought the clips from the movies were a good touch. The costumes were creative and the references to Superman, E.T., and Star Wars were very funny," said Schneider.

Alumni could be spotted among the audience members as well.

"It was interesting to see it from an audience perspective, having been in the band before," said former color guard member **Stephanie Proudfoot ('09)**. "I liked how a lot of the different sections of the band were showcased. They did a really nice job and I look forward to coming back next year,"

Celebrating its 87th season at Alma College, the 103-member marching band delivered a great performance.

Irish native Ben Williams receives BEI Student of the Year award

By **MELISSA HUBBARD**

STAFF WRITER

Ben Williams from Belfast, Ireland received the Business Education Initiative (BEI) Student of the Year award for the Class of 2009.

Williams left his hometown to spend an academic year at Alma College and gain a new perspective about life. He is in his final year of studying geography at Queens University.

Williams came to Alma after he got involved in a program that sends 100 students from Northern Ireland each year to study in the United States during their junior year to help them gain international experience and business skills.

Williams ended his 2008-09 academic career year at Alma at the top of his class and on the Dean's List twice.

"I had this scholarship, and I thought, 'What's the point if I don't use it for all it's worth?'" said Williams. "I didn't know anyone

at the start, so I had to figure out what to do with my free time, anyway."

This made Williams want to become more involved outside the classroom.

Williams participated in Model United Nations, theatre and choir. He also worked with Habitat for Humanity over an Alternative Break during Christmas time. He says this is one of his favorite memories of his time in the United States.

Williams also created his own experiences while he was here. He raised over \$1,000 for These Numbers Have Faces charity by organizing a campus-wide dodge ball tournament.

The These Numbers Have Faces organization is a charity that empowers young people in South Africa to reduce poverty in their communities.

The American work ethic is what inspired Williams to take on these challenges he said.

"People in America, at least on

the face of things, are very confident and up for things," said Williams. "There's a belief in yourself, especially in business, and a desire to get things done."

After Alma, Williams and another BEI student took an 8,000-mile road trip across America last summer in order to raise awareness for the charity. They traveled to Indianapolis, Portland, Los Angeles and Kansas all in six weeks.

"We had been planning this for a year before we went to America," said Williams. "It was a big dream. We used a 25-year-old car that was quite rusty."

With his inspiration from his visit to Alma College and America, Williams now plans to fulfill his dream of working in the film industry after he graduates. He hopes to make television shows and movies.

"Trying to get a job in the film industry is something I never would've attempted to do before coming to America," said Williams.

'Significant amounts' of water found on the moon

By **ELEANOR KING**

STAFF WRITER

Recently, an exciting discovery was made when data from two NASA spacecrafts that purposely hit a crater on the moon was finally released.

Based on video images and other probing techniques of the second craft to impact the surface, water vapor and ice were thrown up with the debris—and not just a little bit of water.

Theories had constructed predictions of water on the moon, but it wasn't until the last mission that promising evidence was released to the public.

Previously, NASA scientists had found traces of water in moon rocks returned from other expeditions. However, these samples had been contaminated on their journey back to Earth and the possibility of terrestrial water tainting the samples had to be taken into account.

Other samples of moon soil contained even smaller traces of water. According to the researchers, it was not enough to hit the newsstands.

But now they have found what NASA describes as "significant amounts."

In its press release, NASA included two main theories for how water came to be on the barren lunar landscape.

The first theory suggests that water had been introduced to the environment by non-lunar objects colliding with our moon. These objects may have contained water from essentially anywhere or anything in the universe.

The second theory determined that water had been created on the moon by solar wind. This wind coming off of our very own sun would be traveling at one-third the speed of light, and it would have also been carrying a significant amount of hydrogen protons.

The force of the protons hitting the moon's surface could possibly break apart oxygen in the form of O₂, which would create a promising chemical environment for the formation of H₂O.

Cameron Reed, chair and pro-

fessor of physics at Alma College, found both theories scientifically sound.

"I would think both formation scenarios could be equally plausible, though I'm not sure how one could ever tell the difference—if at all."

Regardless of how the water came to be on the moon, it holds much promise for future expeditions.

Since the global initiatives taken during the Cold War to put man on the moon, there has been diminishing incentives and motivations to return.

However, now that scientists could assure the existence of water, a whole new set of doors opens to discovery.

First and foremost, NASA has a new found desire to try and set up a long-term base on the moon. Water could provide astronauts with both a source of drinking water and a major component of fuel and energy for lunar activities.

Whether it be validating one theory over another or sending more Americans into space, there are significant costs involved.

The previous Bush administration had proposed billions of dollars to go to both Mars and the moon, but only a portion of it had actually been passed to NASA and its affiliates.

The Obama administration, without proposing a dollar amount, is reviewing all the components of the moon program before making a decision.

With the national debt increasing over \$3 billion a day, it is natural that the government be wary about committing money to something thousands of miles into outer space. However, Reed made an interesting point in explaining that many scientific discoveries beneficial to the earth have been made by NASA in the past.

"As to funding a moon base—well, I imagine in this economy it'd be a long way off. But a lot of technology we now take for granted: small computers, communication, probably some medical diagnostic instruments, developed from the space program in the 60s and 70s, so you never know what the economic spinoffs are going to be."



Photo by Devin Brines

Irish native Ben Williams studied at Alma College during the 2008-2009 academic year.

American feelings of superiority no longer viable

By CHRIS CHESNEY
GUEST WRITER

The notion that the U.S. is the best country in the world has been ingrained into every Americans' head since the day they were born. America has always seen itself as infallible, righteous, and noble in its decisions without need for apology or explanation. Yet America, in order to maintain its presence and position on the world stage, needs to evolve into a less self-serving country and lead the world into a prosperous, community-minded world order. Born out of a victory at war against an oppressive colonial power, America has seen itself

expand without comparison. Victory in both world wars, collapsing the Communist regime of the Soviet Union, and leading the economic market has given the U.S. a firm grip on what has now become a unipolar political system. However, China is emerging to challenge the current world order and America needs to take heed. The American thinking of superiority is no longer viable in a world of instant mass communication, terrorism, and ballooning political correctness. Instead, we must see the world as equals as we work together toward mutual benefit. America must evolve into a leader of

nations rather than continue as a diplomatic bully. America has been the best country in the world because of the freedoms and liberties provided in a single short document—the Constitution. But what really made America great? The combination of immigrants from varying ethnic and religious backgrounds coming together and forming the country we know today? It is ridiculous to believe that in the 21st century, other countries have little to offer us besides security and resources. When President Obama recently made his trip to China, analysts were regarding it as a

failure because he did not gain any concessions in trade, military or the environment from the start and it strengthened the Chinese political position, thus weakening America's, and many are blaming the president for this mistake. However, President Obama no longer has at his disposal real politic, the forceful and bullying diplomatic strategy employed by previous U.S. presidents because the America's political position has been declining for almost the last decade as some major international incidents have resulted in backlash toward America. Countries will no longer respond to such diplomacy as they start believing America is

less powerful and an alternative in China is being offered. New methods of diplomacy are needed which, unfortunately, may cause some growing pains for Americans as many see compromise as a loss instead of what it truly should be—mutual benefit. America is a great country, because it continuously evolves with the times. For the past 60 years, America has enjoyed the strongest possible position on the world stage. Yet once again, times are changing and America must change as well. America must become a leader in a group of equal partners, otherwise the decline of American power could continue.

Insects: more important than you think

By MATT SHERRY
STAFF WRITER

Who cares about insects? Even though I'm a vegetarian, I squash insects all the time. That may seem hypocritical, but even as an advocate for animal rights, it's hard to include insects in that paradigm. I don't think I'd go so far as to say that insects should have similar rights as farm animals or humans, but they have a certain level of importance. I believe animals have intrinsic value. Insects are animals. Thus, logically I would have to think insects have intrinsic value as well. However, I can't commit myself to that kind of conclusion. I know it's hard for most people to even care about insects. Spiders and other creepy crawlies don't seem worth preserving. It's gross to see spider webs in my room, and so I often seek out spiders and kill them with Kleenex. Bees or yellow jackets are generally seen as being a painful hassle; being stung can have a very adverse effect on allergic people. Insects are also used metaphorically quite often in writing as being something extremely derogatory. It's

quite unfavorable to compare someone to an insect. Bugs don't have a very long life span. In fact, the May Fly only lives for about a day. The argument is that killing bugs won't do much harm because they wouldn't have lived very long anyway. However, isn't time relative? That kind of lifespan may seem like a long time to the insect. Since their lifespan is long enough to reproduce, it counts as a successful life anyway. They also don't need gigantic brains with millions of neurons to perform the tasks necessary of their kind. Insects fulfill many valuable purposes that people often forget. In some societies, insects, such as the beetle grub, are used as nourishment. You might be thinking, "ew, gross! Who would eat insects?" Well, you do. A June 2008 article in Woman's Health Magazine claimed that we inadvertently swallow 2 pounds of bugs per year. Most people by now have heard something to that effect, but if not I'm sorry to ruin your day. Bees are extremely valuable to the agriculture industry because of their pollination. According to the Smithsonian

Institution, "Pollination by honeybees in the U.S. favorably affects some \$20 billion dollars in crops per year, including fruits, vegetables, and many nuts." Bees are also useful for their beeswax, used in tons of commercial products. An insect benefiting the economy is always a good thing. Another insect that benefits the economy is the silkworm. China has produced silk for thousands of years, and the importance of the silkworm is certainly nothing to scoff at. Other insects have pigments or secretions used in commercial products such as for dyes, floor polishes, and printing inks. Insects such as fruit flies are also important for biological and evolutionary research. Another simple but less important reason insects are valued stems from their beauty. Plenty of people appreciate the beauty of butterflies. I hope this goes to show that insects aren't just useful to the environment, but to humans as well. It might be questionable to value them as much as your dog, but they fulfill an important purpose. We shouldn't be so quick to write off insects as inconsequential annoyances.

AWKWARD MISCONCEPTIONS

By CHRIS SCHNEIDER



the Almanian.

"ALMA COLLEGE'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY SINCE 1907."

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The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting, accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of Alma College.

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Two views on smoking cigarettes

LET ME SMOKE IN PEACE

By LAUREL TILOT

GUEST WRITER

In the world, about 1.3 billion people smoke cigarettes.

Interestingly enough, one could concur that all of these people smoke by choice, meaning that no one has filled their dining halls with rude pamphlets and facts that shout “Start smoking now” in an effort to enforce their opinion upon their readers.

Thursday November 19 was “The Great American Smokeout”, a movement encouraging smokers to quit on that day.

It is also apparently the day where members of Colleges Against Cancer on Alma College campus feel the need to rudely bash smokers by filling Hamilton Commons with papers listing a range of untruthful and downright ludicrous statements.

The desire for friends and family to quit smoking is completely acceptable and even encouraged by most people. I myself, a smoker, encourage friends who decide to quit, giving them as much support as I can.

I follow the rules and smoke 25 feet away from the buildings, put my butts in the ashtrays, and refuse to smoke around children or the elderly. Not until this day, The Great American Smokeout, had I ever been referred to as a Nazi or “stupid” for my decision to smoke.

Colleges Against Cancer of Alma College placed many “factual” strips of paper in SAGA about smoking and its effects, some of which were a little more ridiculous than others. For example, “Hydrogen cyanide, one of the toxic byproducts present in cigarette smoke, was used as a genocidal chemical agent during World War II.”

Did anyone know that this chemical is also naturally found in the air, soil, and sadly enough, industries where thousands of people work?

Never once do you hear anti-smokers calling factory workers Nazis, but smokers, those nasty devils, they are the ones who must be supporting genocide through their personal decisions.

I also thought that CAC should be aware that there are a huge amount of other things that cause cancer, not just smoking. Did we forget in our fervor against smokers that excessive exposure to UV rays from sun or tanning is a major factor in skin cancer?

What about unprotected sex putting you at risk for HPV, a disease known to lead to cervical cancer?

Or the biggest fad on a college campus, far exceeding the amount of smoking here, drinking, which puts the average person at risk for throat, mouth, breast, and esophageal cancer?

So every time one of you girls fill your Nalgene with an innocent

little mixed drink, or any time one of you guys goes to the store and grabs a 12 pack of beer for the night, remember that it's just as likely to give you cancer as someone smoking a cigarette.

Most people, yes even us smokers, know that smoking is a terrible habit. Just like biting your nails, picking your nose, or wearing Crocs.

Most of us are even apt to want to quit, or to support those who are quitting. For those of us who are NOT quitting though, please, leave us to our habits. Don't call us Nazis, stupid, or neurotic as to the whereabouts of our cigarettes. Let us smoke, read books, listen to music, pet our cats, and live our lives the way we see fit.

SMOKING SUCKS

By MATT SHERRY

STAFF WRITER

Personally, I find smoking quite hilarious in a dark humor kind of way, though I'm sure the Marlboro man might want to have a word with me about that.

Smoking is the ultimate form of masochistic self-deprecation.

It's a slow-burn method of suicide that inspires me to use bad puns.

Maybe 50 or 60 years ago, smokers could be excused by ignorance but, in today's information age, you would think society would have smoked out all the smokers (OK, last terrible pun, I swear).

Not as many people smoke in this day and age; the only one who smokes in my family is an uncle. He's relatively respectful about it and doesn't really do it around others.

Every smoker has differing levels of self-awareness on how much their smoking is affecting others, which makes it hard to generalize their behavior to the entire smoking populace.

Occasionally, I'll see a few smokers outside of SAC (Wally I'm looking at you), and breathing in some second-hand smoke to get to class is a minor inconvenience.

However, I doubt their behavior has any real long-term effects on me. It's their own decision.

It's absurd that people are dying from something that can be voluntarily prevented.

In 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that about 21 percent of U.S. adults are smokers. Of those 21 percent Americans, the CDC found in 2000 that about 70 percent of them want to quit.

The money wasted, the yellow teeth, and risk of lung cancer isn't worth it. Most smokers know this, but can't escape their addiction to nicotine.

Thus, banning smoking completely on the Alma College campus doesn't seem entirely logical. We can't punish individuals for a decision they can't escape.

On the other hand, there isn't

anything rational or logical about smoking in the first place. There are absolutely no compelling arguments in support of smoking.

Being cool or trying to fit in just doesn't cut it. Once you hit the age where you're coughing up a lung, it's not very cool anymore.

Just like that tattoo of Ashton Kutcher on your left butt cheek—it may have been real sweet back then, but when you start wanting people to take you seriously it's not too viable anymore.

Alma College isn't quite as littered with cigarette butts that I often see in other places.

Every so often I see someone flick a cigarette out the window of their car, which makes me want to hijack a monster truck to run over the cars of misbehaving smokers. If certain smokers weren't so flippant about littering, it wouldn't bother me as much.

I'm cautiously apathetic when it comes to other people smoking.

If the person is someone I have a personal stake in, I'd be concerned if they smoked. Most of the time if it's just a random stranger I would usually think more power to you—have fun killing yourself slowly.

Who am I to decide what flavor of cyanide they might enjoy?

Certainly in an idealistic world, no one would smoke. The catch is that smoking is so heavily ingrained into our culture that it's not likely to go away anytime soon.

International human rights: Something for everyone to be passionate about

By ELIZABETH WAYNE

GUEST WRITER

Margaret Mead described Amnesty International perfectly with her words: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Last weekend I had the opportunity of attending the

regional Amnesty International Conference in Chicago and got a much closer look at the human rights violations occurring around the world.

Amnesty International is a volunteer-based organization that strives to make a difference in the systems that enable human rights around the globe to be abused.

Most Americans hear “human

rights violations” and see the sad face of an African child with a bloated, empty stomach or an emaciated, impoverished man in some distant country. Americans fail to see how relevant human rights are to our everyday lives.

When you contract some serious disease, do you believe you should have the opportunity to receive treatment? And when you're goofing off and accidentally break your arm, do you think that the hospital should help you out?

You may believe the answer is yes to both, because healthcare is a human right.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states clearly in Article 25 “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care...”

Americans have a fundamental right to healthcare, and so does the child with the bloated belly and the emaciated man in the Far East.

Regardless of this universal promise, the international community continues to see astronomical health issues statistics.

Besides curable disease, maternity mortality rates continue to be disturbingly high. Every minute, a woman dies in childbirth or pregnancy from a health complication that modern technology claims to have eradicated.

Mahmoud Fathalla, former president of the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, was right when he said, “Women are not dying of diseases we cannot treat. They are dying because societies have yet to make the decision that their lives are worth saving”

If this were your mother, your older sister, your friend, would you not be outraged? So why are you not incensed when hearing

that women you do not know are dying every passing minute while attempting to bring new life into this world?

Human rights violations do not end with high mortality rates; all over the world, people are being denied their right to education, freedom, justice, equality, and protection.

Alma College hosts several charities that admirably raise money to help the victims of such abuses, and donating may help feed a child or teach one more person, but your fundraising can only go so far because it alone will never end poverty, hunger, disease, or illiteracy.

Donations can only temporarily alleviate pressure. We must take action against the systems and leaders themselves if we ever hope to rectify the atrocities being committed in our own country and around the world.

It is you and I who have the power to do something and enact change.

Do not stand by idly any longer, giving your spare change when your sympathy is aroused and then going back to your blessed life. Take the steps toward enforcing our core rights.

First, demand education about human rights.

Alma College may have a wide variety of worthy classes, but it lacks teaching the basic rights of every human being, which is essential to developing responsible, intellectual citizens of the world.

If we hope to advance international human rights we must first know exactly what those rights are, and the existing legislation and whether it is upheld or violated.

Second, get involved in groups, like Amnesty International, that strive to fix the broken systems that allow such injustices to occur.

Do you love to write?

Do lots of things make you want to rant?

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Contact Meredith Brown
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Marijuana Misconceptions, by Ian Wolfe

As I picked up the November 9-15th edition of The Almanian, I turned to the opinion section and began to read an article regarding the legalization of marijuana. The first writer, Wallace Abramson, brought up excellent points for the Schedule I controlled substance. However, the second writer, Matt Sherry, provided a counterpoint riddled with misconceptions and questionable research.

First of all, Matt Sherry presented marijuana as an awful drug that horribly damages a person's health. Yeah, sure, that may be true, but don't cigarettes do more damage? According to the American Heart Association (AHA), there are 47.1 million Americans who are habitual cigarette smokers, as opposed to the estimated 22 million that have smoked marijuana at least once this year. I find it very interesting that people, like Matt Sherry, choose to overlook the prevalence of cigarettes in our American culture and blatantly attack marijuana.

Besides, what is in cigarettes that makes them okay to legalize in the first place? Cigarettes, like marijuana, can lead to respiratory disease such as emphysema, asthma, and lung cancer. However, marijuana provides health benefits that cigarettes do not. Marijuana has been proven to relieve muscle pain, nausea, and provide comfort to patients suffering from glaucoma related pain. But let's just ignore all of that and focus just on the smoke, as Matt Sherry did in his article. Well, according to NORML (The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), marijuana smoke has much less tar in it than cigarette smoke, especially when it is used for medicinal reasons.

So here's an idea. Instead of spending millions of dollars enforcing marijuana laws and millions more incarcerating those convicted of possession, why not make a profit on marijuana? Legalize and tax the drug. With its legalization, the crime associated with marijuana's transportation will drastically drop and the government will make massive amounts of money—money that can be used to make other necessary reforms that the government claims we can't afford.

Yeah, marijuana is a drug, but its far less addictive than many of the prescription substances that we currently use as painkillers. We should take the stigma off of marijuana use, legalize it, and make it benefit us as a nation. Tax it. Use it for medical purposes. Whatever. Just don't make arguments against marijuana legalization when there are far worse products that are currently legal.

Ski team begins season without key member

By **ANDREW WALIGORSKI**
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again when days get shorter, the weather gets colder, and most students retreat to the warmth of their dorms. It's also the time of year that the Alma College Ski Team gears up for another season on the slopes.

The ski team consists of 13 men and women who spend their weekends competing in downhill skiing race events.

There are two events for both men and women—slalom and giant slalom. Each event takes place on one of the two days that make up each meet. Slalom courses have tighter turns while giant slalom courses have longer, easier turns.

Unlike most other sports, participating in skiing allows racers to compete with others while having fun and making

friends.

"We get to meet people from other schools and many of us became really good friends with other skiers," said **Joani Schmeling ('11)**, who has been a member of the ski team since 2007 when the club began.

Many of the members join the ski team and take this opportunity to try something new.

"Most of us have skied recreationally for years but only a couple of us have ever raced before," said Schmeling. "I didn't race before I joined during my freshman year but it's easy to learn; you catch on quick."

Alma College competes in the Midwest Conference (Michigan Division) of the United States Collegiate Ski Association. Some of the schools the Scots compete against are Michigan State University, the University

of Michigan, Northern Michigan University, and Grand Valley State University.

The events take place at several locations—the Otsego Ski Club, Schuss Mountain, Crystal Mountain, and Marquette Mountain.

Last year both teams were very competitive and finished the season near the middle of the pack. The men finished 10th out of 21 teams and the women finished 14th out of 18.

According to Schmeling, the main focus of the Alma College ski team isn't winning overall as a team but rather improving as individuals.

"Since our team isn't that big, we

focus more on individual results and how everyone improves from weekend to weekend," says Schmeling.

To some members of the ski team, this season will have meaning beyond simply getting to the bottom of the mountain as quickly as possible.

The ski team suffered a big loss this year when Dave Moilanen, who was supposed to take over as president of the club, suffered a coma while studying abroad this summer and was unable to return to school this fall. Moilanen usually placed in the top three every weekend.

"He was the glue that held this team together," said **Matt**

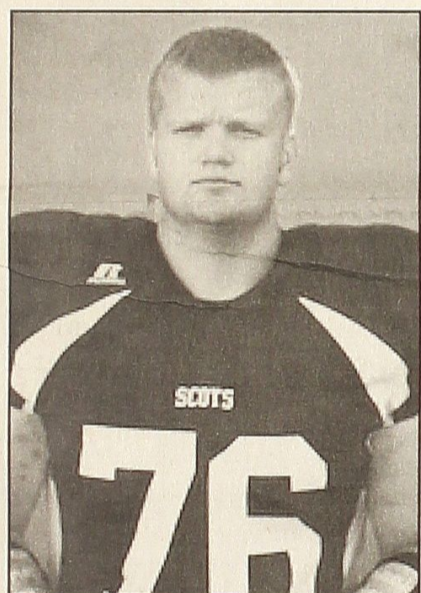
Sabo ('12). "I would really like to improve myself by doing what Dave taught me."

It's not too late to get involved with the ski team if you would like to try something new during this winter season. The first competition is the weekend of Jan. 9 and 10.

If you would like to join or just need more information on the ski team, the co-presidents of the club are Joani Schmeling and Matt Sabo.

If you're a skier looking to test your skills against others or just want to get out of the Alma Bubble for awhile this winter, the Alma College ski team might be the place for you.

Spotlight: football Senior earns MIAA honors



By **MARIA CASTANEDA**
STAFF WRITER

With the ending of the 2009 football season, the MIAA recognized players from the men's football team, giving **Kelly Durr ('09)** First Team honors.

Durr was eligible for another year of football due to an injury his sophomore year. This allowed him to play while he finished his student teaching.

Durr, who plays offensive lineman, is originally from Bad Axe and graduated from Bad Axe High School in 2005. In high school, he played football, basketball and baseball and actually preferred baseball over the other two sports.

At Bad Axe High School, Durr was coached by Jim Collins during his football career and earned all-conference honors, was named the team's most valuable player and recognized as offensive MVP.

As a senior, his baseball team won district and county championships and he was named the team's most valuable player for basketball, where he was known for his rebounding.

Durr started playing football in seventh grade and continued to play competitively after that since his size helped him be successful.

"It was always something I was interested in and something a lot of people seemed to ask me about just because I was a big kid growing up," Durr said.

Playing football through high

school and all through college, Durr enjoys the sport. But more importantly he values the friends he has found in teammates.

"The thing that is the most enjoyable and kept me playing has been the relationships with teammates," Durr said.

"You go through so much with them you become close like a family. The day to day interactions with them is what I will miss the most."

Graduating from high school in 2005, Durr decided to come to Alma College for many reasons, including the homey feel he got from the college.

"I came to Alma because I wanted to go to a school known for academics and a school where I could play football. I also enjoyed the small town and small campus feel," Durr said. "It felt like home to me."

Outside of football, Durr is involved in activities around campus. "I have participated in several alternative breaks at Alma," Durr said. "Anyone who hasn't ever done one should try it. They are a blast!" Durr was also a member of Federation of Christian Athletes.

Durr's career on the men's football team was successful. He earned several honors, including being named to the second team All-MIAA Offense in 2008 and First Team in 2009.

Among many memories of his experiences at Alma College, Durr will never forget beating Hope on senior day.

"It is hard to pick one," Durr said. "I guess the most recent and enjoyable was our win on senior day against Hope. The way we won coupled with the fact that I had never beat Hope made it special."

As a physics major and a biology minor, Durr plans to teach after he graduates.

"Currently, I am finishing up my student teaching so I plan to start looking for a teaching job. I would also like to get into coaching at some point."



Photo by Devin Brines

Last year's ski team poses at the top of the hill after one of its meets. They are currently preparing for this year's schedule. Senior member Dave Moilanen ('10) will not take over as president of the club due to a coma he suffered this past summer.

Intramural Volleyball starts season

By **ANDREW ZIMCOSKY**
GUEST WRITER

Though finals are looming in the very near future, students are still finding time to have some fun. As the first semester draws to an end, many students are keeping busy and staying active in intramural volleyball.

"It is a good way to get away from class for a little bit and have some fun," said **J.C. Orlins ('10)**.

"It is my first time participating in intramurals and I am having a lot of fun."

It is a stress reliever for sure. Being in a classroom all day can start to take an effect on you and your body. It is a good way to meet new people as well as having fun with your friends. I am taking a volleyball class in school, so it is nice to take what I learn or practice and apply it in our games to help my team."

Intramural volleyball is a 4 vs. 4 competition that takes place twice a week anywhere from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Stone Recreation Center.

Teams play up to 21, earning points while serving. The team that wins two out of three games is the winner.

Volleyball started at the beginning of this week and will continue through the week prior

to final exams.

Teams had to assemble by Nov. 10. Many students took up the opportunity.

"I am happy with the amount of teams playing, it makes it competitive," said Orlins.

"I found out about all of this by working at the Stone Center and seeing fliers. My friends and I thought it would be a good idea to make a team," said **Kelsey Bailey ('10)**.

"I have noticed that people always seem to have fun. It is nice to have your friends play with you as well as meeting new people."

Intramural volleyball will continue through the rest of this week and during the shortened week before school is dismissed for the Thanksgiving break.

During this time teams are playing for fun and scores do not matter. It is practice for the playoffs, which begin the week students return from break.

All teams make the playoffs. There is a single, one-game elimination with the winning team receiving T-shirts that say, "I.M. Champion."

Students also actively help running the games.

Molly Marino ('11) is in her first year as intramural supervisor.

"I got this opportunity because the person who was in charge last year graduated. He asked me if I wanted to take over this summer and I gladly said yes," said Marino.

"I am in charge of all the intramurals sports. I, as well as the participants, seem to always have fun doing this. It can get pretty competitive at times, but for the most part it is fun for everyone playing."

Bailey said this is her third year participating as well as being a referee.

"I have been a referee for volleyball games and a scorekeeper for the basketball games. In the winter I always play in the co-ed five-on-five intramural basketball where my team has won the championship the past two years. It's always fun."

The next intramural sport will be the five-on-five co-ed and men's basketball. It will start after students return from the holidays.

"If students have any questions or are interested in signing up for future intramural events, there are fliers around campus. Students can stop by the Stone Recreation Center as well, if they have more questions," said Marino.

Men's basketball opens season with overtime loss

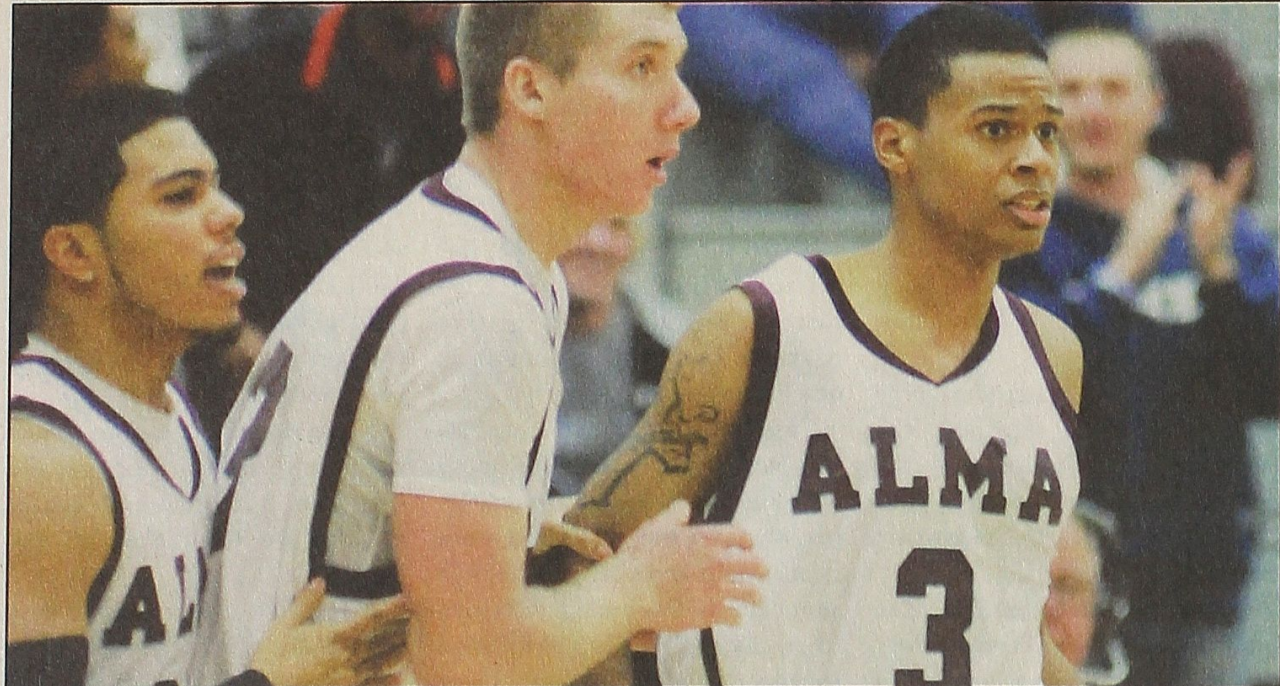


Photo by Devin Brines

Terry Brown ('12), who made a last minute shot to tie the game, watches with his teammates **Lexis Carter ('11)** and **Tommy Erickson ('12)** as the Scots toss a free throw for the win in the last second of the opener. A miss sends the game to overtime and an eventual loss.

BY MARIA CASTANEDA
STAFF WRITER

In the season opener at home, the men's basketball team lost a close game to Anderson last Monday evening.

After an overtime period the Scot's ended up losing by a 71-67 score. The game was a back and forth battle the entire duration with a tied score of 30-30 at halftime.

"We were really aggressive," **Jordan Redditt ('11)** said. "Our offense was alright but we could've gotten a couple more defensive stops and rebounds."

Redditt, a guard, was among the leading scorers with 13 points.

Forwards **Tommy Erickson ('12)** and **Damien Essex ('13)** each had 16 points for the Scots.

Erickson also had 10 rebounds and **Isaac Thaler ('10)** had five during the game.

With only a few seconds left in the game **Lexis Carter ('11)** made a steal allowing **Terry Brown ('12)** to score a layup at the buzzer and send the game into overtime.

The Scots had 11 steals during the game. The intense back and forth battle continued in overtime with the Scots taking a two-point lead with 1:38 on the clock.

Despite this encouraging lead, Anderson University was able to score six points beating the Scots by four.

"We started overtime really good but dropped off," Redditt said. "I made a couple of bad decisions at the end. We made key mistakes that cost us late in the game. In a tight game like that you can't make any mistakes."

"We need to take care of the ball and not make silly turnovers," Brown said of what the Scots could have done better in the

game against the Ravens.

The men's basketball team has shown great improvement though, having lost to the Ravens 92-73 last year.

"We have better players, we're playing better, our chemistry is better," Redditt said. "This is the best team we've had in the three years I've been here."

"We're way better," Brown added. "We're more talented, a little older, and more mature. A lot of skilled freshman also came in."

The Scots hope to be more successful this year with the talented incoming class and also returning players with experience.

"[Tommy] Erickson is six-foot-five and can handle the ball. He

does everything we need him to do and [Jordan] Redditt is the leading scorer from last year, he's a three year varsity player and should be first team All-MIAA," Brown said of key players for the upcoming season.

Following the game against Anderson University, the men's squad traveled to Indiana for the Manchester Tournament. Before the tournament, the team had a positive outlook on the weekend.

"I don't know much about teams but if we take care of the ball I don't see anyone on the schedule who can beat us. We just have to play our game and play with confidence," Redditt said.

Unfortunately, the Scots lost their first game to host Manchester 82-71 and their second game against Concordia, 59-56.



Photo by Devin Brines

Damian Essex ('12) attempts a free throw as **Lexis Carter ('11)** and **Cory Schneider ('12)** watch. Essex tied **Tommy Erickson ('12)** for the most points of the Anderson game; 16 each.

Women's basketball travels to Ohio for tournament

BY ANDREW WALIGORSKI
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College women's basketball team traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio to participate in a preseason at tournament at Mt. St. Joseph's College.

They fell to the University of the Cumberlands, a liberal arts school from Kentucky, 74-35. But the Scots bounced back in the second game and were able to hang close with Bethany College but fell by a final score of 79-69.

"Our outlook for the season is constant improvement. We are learning to play with each other, and we do new great things every day," said **Meagan Hoblet ('10)**.

In the first game, forward **Sydney Beckwith ('10)** led the Scots in scoring with 12 points and senior forward Meagan Hoblet added 11 points of her own. Guard **Lacey Best-Rowden ('10)** led the team with three assists and center **Aubrey Maxa ('12)** led with five rebounds.

During the second game, Beckwith scored 20 points to lead all scorers and Hoblet scored 16 points including a perfect 8-8 from the free throw line while

also contributing six rebounds and two steals.

Last Tuesday, the Scots lost on the road to Rochester College by a score of 55-42. The Scots' record falls to 0-3 on the season.

Hoblet, Beckwith, and Maxa were the leading scorers for the Scots with eight points each. **Rachel Jaska ('12)** picked up five assists, and Hoblet and **Kathryn Bigelow ('10)** both contributed seven rebounds.

"We lost but there were many good things—we were up at halftime," said Hoblet. "That game was our one learning experience, from here all we can do is improve."

The Scots have faced the challenge of adapting to the new coaching style of Keisha Brown in a very short amount of time. Despite this, their outlook is very positive.

"The young ladies get used to doing things a certain way and then you have to come in and get them to do things your way," said Brown.

"However, the young ladies have made that somewhat easy for me. They believe and trust in me

and what I have to bring to the team, so they are working hard and the transition has not been as difficult as one would think."

"Everyone is a little skeptical when they begin a season with a new coach, but collectively as a team we have enjoyed every minute since day one," said Hoblet.

In order to start the season at full speed, the women's basketball began 6 a.m. conditioning and lifting workouts in September.

According to Brown, the pace hasn't slowed down now that the season has started.

"Now that we are in season, we have team meetings, still do lifting and conditioning, and have some 5:30 a.m. practices," said Coach Brown.

"Most importantly, they work every day to be the best on the court as well as off the court by holding each other accountable for their part in the teams' success."

The women's basketball team will play in its home opener this Tuesday when it hosts Aquinas College. The game has a scheduled start time of 7 p.m.

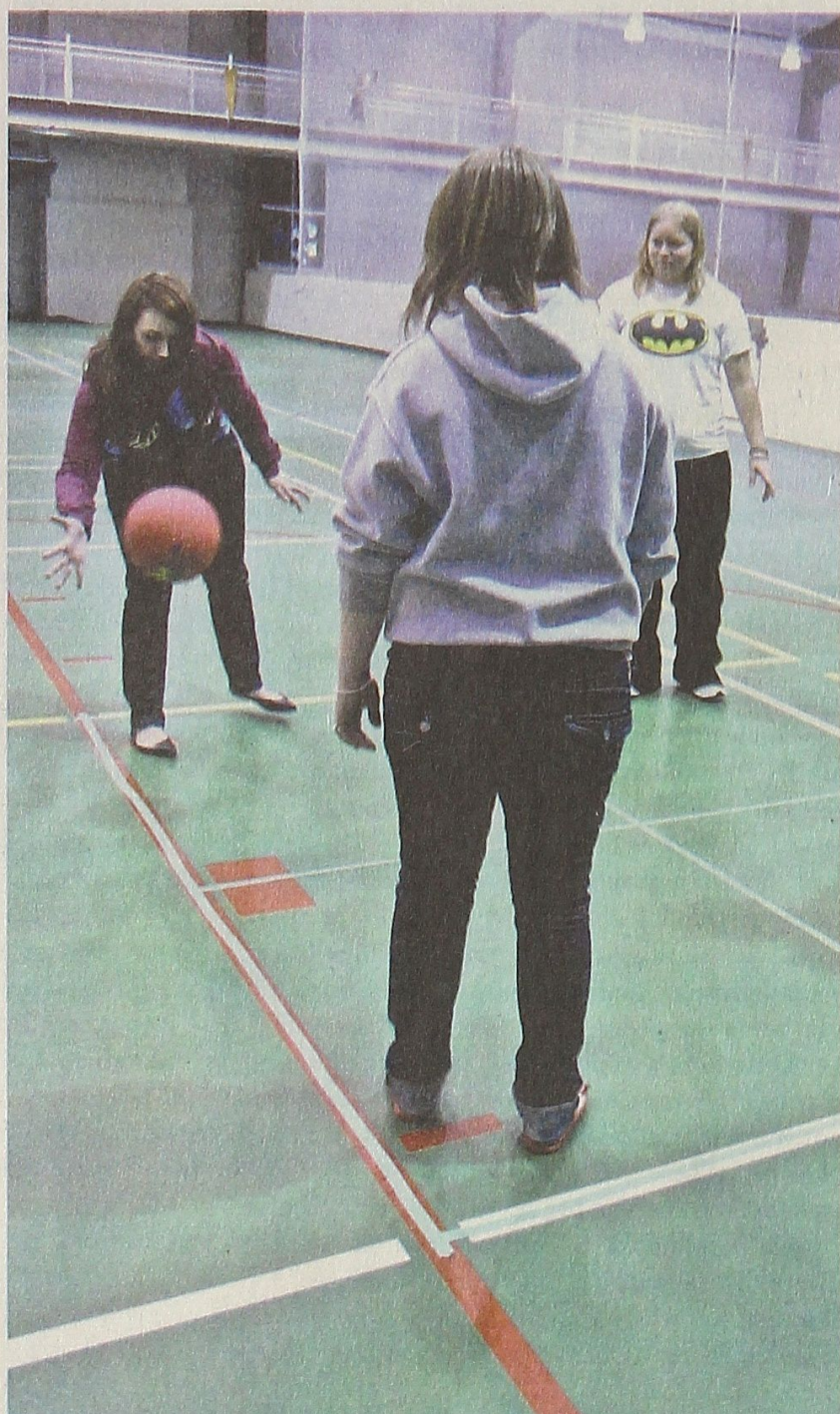


Photo by Lauren Kimpel

Jessie Reemer ('11), **Katie Hallam ('12)**, and **Joani Schmelling ('11)** played four-square Saturday as a fundraiser for the Panhellenic Council.